

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

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P 161736Z MAR 77

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2038

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0128

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR: INFORMAL SESSION WITH EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES
OF MARCH 15, 1977

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN THE MARCH 15, 1977 INFORMAL SESSION OF THE VIENNA TALKS, THE ALLIES WERE REPRESENTED BY THE CANADIAN REP, UK REP AND US REP, AND THE EAST BY SOVIET REPS TARASOV AND SHUSTOV, GDR REP OESER AND POLISH REP DABROWA. MILITARY ADVISERS ALSO PARTICIPATED.

2. THE SESSION, AGAIN A LENGTHY ONE, FOLLOWED THE PATTERN OF PREVIOUS SESSIONS ON COUNTING RULES AND DATA. POLISH REP REPLIED TO EARLIER WESTERN QUESTIONS ON EASTERN EXCLUSIONS STATING INTER ALIA THAT THE POLES HAD NOT EXCLUDED CONSCRIPT PERSONNEL OF ANY GROUP OTHER THAN THOSE OF THE QUOTE UNITS OF TERRITORIAL DEFENSE UNQUOTE (JEDNOSTIE OBRANY TERITORIALNEJ). HE ASKED FURTHER QUESTIONS ABOUT WESTERN DATA. WESTERN REPS
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RESPONDED AND ASKED A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ABOUT EASTERN COUNTING RULES. SOVIET REP TARASOV RESPONDED TO FURTHER WESTERN POINTS PRESENTED IN THE MARCH 8 SESSION THAT PRESENT EASTERN STATEMENTS ON DATA WERE INCONSISTENT WITH EARLIER EASTERN POSITIONS. IMPLEMENTING NATO GUIDANCE, WESTERN REPS PROPOSED THAT THE NEXT STEP IN DATA DISCUSSION BE SIMULTANEOUS TABLING OF TOTALS FOR US AND SOVIET FORCES IN THE REDUCTION

AREA. TARASOV REPLIED THAT THIS APPROACH WAS UNACCEPTABLE AND THAT THE EAST WOULD BE PREPARED TO TABLE DATA ON SOVIET FORCES ONLY IF THE WEST AGREED THAT ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS SHOULD PUT DOWN SEPARATE TOTALS ON THEIR FORCES.

3. THE UK REP SUMMARIZED WESTERN PROPOSALS FOR STABILIZING MEASURES. HE SAID EAST HAD SO FAR NOT ADDRESSED THESE WESTERN PROPOSALS OR THE TOPIC OF STABILIZING MEASURES AS SUCH. DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT SHOULD BEGIN NOW. CONTINUED FAILURE TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE COULD EVENTUALLY DELAY FINAL AGREEMENT. EASTERN REPS SHOULD STATE WHETHER THE EAST AGREED IN PRINCIPLE THAT THERE SHOULD BE STABILIZING MEASURES FOR US AND SOVIET FORCES OF THE KIND THE WEST HAD PROPOSED.

4. GDR REP ATTACKED WESTERN POSITION ON COLLECTIVITY. HE SAID NATO WAS RESERVING FOR ITSELF THE RIGHT TO DETERMINE AMONG WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS THE AMOUNT OF THEIR REDUCTIONS WHILE SPECIFYING THE AMOUNT OF SOVIET REDUCTIONS. COLLECTIVE CEILINGS WOULD PERMIT AN INCREASE IN THE LEVELS OF THE FORCES OF INDIVIDUAL NON-US WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS AS COMPARED TO THEIR PRESENT LEVEL. THE SOVIET UNION AND THE US WERE TO BE SUBJECT TO A NATIONAL CEILING BUT THE OTHER COUNTRIES WOULD BE LIMITED ONLY BY A COLLECTIVE CEILING.

5. CANADIAN REP PRESENTED SOME GENERAL WESTERN VIEWS ON DATA AND THE RATIONALE FOR WESTERN QUESTIONS. HE POINTED OUT THAT IN THE PROCESS OF ATTEMPTING TO IDENTIFY SOURCES OF THE DISCREPANCY BETWEEN WESTERN FIGURES ON WARSAW PACT FORCES, EACH SIDE HAD THE BASIC RESPONSIBILITY OF ANSWERING QUESTIONS
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AS TO ITS OWN FORCES. IN REPLY TO AN EARLIER EASTERN QUESTION, CANADIAN REP POINTED OUT THAT DUAL-BASED WESTERN MILITARY PERSONNEL WERE NOT INCLUDED IN WESTERN FIGURES BECAUSE THESE PERSONNEL WERE PERMANENTLY OUTSIDE THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS AND HE FURTHER DEFINED THE WESTERN ACTUAL STRENGTH CONCEPT.

6. POLISH REP RESPONDED TO WESTERN QUESTIONS FROM MARCH 1 SESSION ABOUT EASTERN EXCLUSIONS, BUT FAILED TO PROVIDE THE SPECIFIC NAMES OF INTERNAL SECURITY AND BORDER ORGANIZATIONS THE EAST HAD EXCLUDED, AS THE WEST HAD THEN REQUESTED.

7. POLISH REP ASKED (A) WHETHER THE US HAD FORCES IN THE REDUCTION AREA WHOSE PERSONNEL WERE ASSIGNED TO UNITS IN THE US; (B) WHETHER THE WEST HAD USED THE AUTHORIZED STRENGTH CRITERION IN COMPUTING ITS OWN FORCES AND THOSE OF THE WARSAW PACT; (C) WHETHER PERSONNEL OF PARTICIPANTS WITH SPECIAL STATUS HAD BEEN INCLUDED IN WESTERN DATA; (D) WHETHER RESERVISTS CALLED UP FOR FULL-TIME ACTIVE DUTY WERE INCLUDED IN WESTERN DATA; (E) WHETHER ALL MILITARY PERSONNEL OF FRG TERRITORIAL

FORCES HAD BEEN INCLUDED AND (F) WHETHER PERSONNEL OF CENTRAL MILITARY INSTITUTIONS, CENTRAL MEDICAL SERVICES AND OF THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF DEFENSE OF THE FRG HAD BEEN INCLUDED IN WESTERN DATA.

8. US REP ASKED FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS OF POLISH REP. IN THE COURSE OF THIS DISCUSSION, POLISH REP FINALLY STATED THAT THE EAST HAD NOT EXCLUDED ANY POLISH CONSCRIPT PERSONNEL EXCEPT THOSE OF THE JEDNOSTIE OBRANY TERYTORIALNEJ FROM ITS COUNT. US REP ASKED A SERIES OF QUESTIONS ON WHETHER THE EAST HAD COUNTED ALL ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY PERSONNEL DETAILED TO ADMINISTER TRAINING RESERVE UNITS, FORMATIONS OF OTHER MINISTRIES OR DEPARTMENTS, BORDER GUARDS, CIVIL DEFENSE ORGANIZATIONS, MILITARY TRAINING OF UNITS, FACTORY MILITIA, OR POLITICAL OFFICERS. TARASOV ANSWERED MOST OF THESE QUESTIONS TO THE EFFECT THAT THE EAST HAD COUNTED ALL MILITARY PERSONNEL IN THE AREA WHERE THEY WERE ASSIGNED. US REP REPLIED TO POLISH
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REP'S QUESTIONS.

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9. TARASOV THEN MADE EFFORT TO REFUTE UK REP'S POINTS IN MARCH 8 INFORMAL ON INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN PAST EASTERN POSITIONS AND EASTERN DATA STATEMENTS. TARASOV CLAIMED INTER ALIA THAT THE EAST HAD BASED ITS STATEMENTS THAT THE WEST WANTED EASTERN REDUCTIONS THREE TIMES LARGER THAN WESTERN REDUCTIONS ON WESTERN DATA AND THAT EARLIER EASTERN STATEMENTS THAT WESTERN PROPOSAL FOR GROUND FORCE COMMON CEILING WOULD CHANGE THE BALANCE OF FORCES IN THE AREA WERE JUSTIFIED BECAUSE IMPLEMENTATION OF WESTERN PROPOSALS WOULD IN FACT CHANGE THIS BALANCE.

10. UK REP SAID DISCUSSION OF DATA HAD REACHED A POINT WHERE IT APPEARED NECESSARY TO CONTINUE THE DISCUSSION IN GREATER DETAIL. IN THE WESTERN VIEW, IT WOULD BE A LOGICAL STEP FOR WESTERN AND EASTERN PARTICIPANTS RESPECTIVELY TO PUT DOWN THEIR FIGURES ON US AND SOVIET MILITARY MANPOWER. UNDER THE REDUCTION APPROACHES OF BOTH SIDES, THERE WAS A REQUIREMENT FOR AGREEMENT ON DATA FOR US AND SOVIET FORCES. UK REP PROPOSED THAT THE

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WEST WOULD BE PREPARED TO PUT DOWN ITS FIGURES FOR THE TOTAL OF US ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY PERSONNEL AND FOR THE TOTAL OF US GROUND FORCE ACTIVE DUTY PERSONNEL IN THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS AS OF 1 JANUARY 1976 PROVIDED THAT THE EAST AT THE SAME TIME PUT DOWN COMPARABLE FIGURES FOR THE SOVIET MILITARY PERSONNEL. THE TABLING OF THIS DATA WOULD BE WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE OVERALL POSITION OF EACH SIDE.

11. IN REPLY, TARASOV SAID THE WESTERN PROPOSAL WAS NOT LOGICAL. PARTICIPANTS WERE NOW DISCUSSING OVERALL FIGURES FOR WARSAW TREATY AND NATO COUNTRIES IN THE REDUCTION AREA. THESE OVERALL FIGURES WERE MADE UP BY USING THE NATIONAL FIGURES FOR ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS. CLARIFICATION OF ISSUES PERTAINING TO THE US AND SOVIET FORCES IN THE REDUCTION AREA WOULD NOT PRODUCE AN ANSWER TO THE QUESTION OF IDENTIFYING THE SOURCE OF THE DIFFERENCES IN DATA. ONLY TABLING OF INDIVIDUAL TOTALS BY EACH OF THE DIRECT PARTICIPANTS WOULD HAVE THIS EFFECT. THE WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND CANADA NOT ONLY REFUSED TO ASSUME COMMITMENTS ON THE SCOPE AND TIMING OF THEIR REDUCTIONS BUT WERE REFUSING ALSO TO PUT DOWN FIGURES ON THEIR FORCES. IF EACH DIRECT PARTICIPANT PUT DOWN NATIONAL DATA SIMULTANEOUSLY, THE EAST WOULD BE PREPARED TO START DETAILED DISCUSSION OF US AND SOVIET FORCES. IF WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND CANADA WERE NOT WILLING TO STATE THEIR NATIONAL FIGURES, THE EAST DID NOT SEE THAT THESE WESTERN PARTICIPANTS HAD THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN DISCUSSION OF US AND SOVIET FORCES. IN THE EASTERN VIEW, IT WAS NECESSARY TO DISCUSS ALL THE INDIVIDUAL TOTALS OF DIRECT PARTICIPANTS. THE EAST WAS READY TO TABLE ITS NATIONAL TOTALS. IT FOLLOWED THAT THE PROPOSAL WHICH THE UK REP HAD

MADE WAS UNACCEPTABLE FOR THE WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES. END SUMMARY.

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